



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## NOTES ON CURRENT AND RECENT EVENTS.

### ANTHROPOLOGY—PSYCHOLOGY—LEGAL-MEDICINE.

**Kurt Williams on Statistical Investigations of Jail Psychoses.**—"The author investigated the psychoses of the insane prisoners received at the Bonn Asylum from 1904 to 1909—232 in number, from which figure he deducted twelve cases on account of not being able to obtain sufficient data with regard to them. The 220 cases considered, he divides into six groups, (I) Those already insane when arrested, 14 cases. (II) Those sent to the Asylum for observation as to their mental condition, 78 cases. (III) Cases of insanity developing in jail but not differing in clinical picture from that which is usual in such cases, 18 cases. (IV) Cases of insanity whose clinical picture was influenced by the imprisonment, 39 cases. (V) Prison psychoses arising upon a basis of degeneration, 30 cases. (VI) Persons previously sound who suffered from prison psychoses, 41 cases. It is noteworthy that the total number is equally divided between cases which were evidently not due to imprisonment and those in which this presumably played a role. Since the first group furnishes no information as to prison psychoses, the author limits his consideration almost exclusively to the last three. The 39 cases of group IV were made up of 8 imbeciles, 14 precocious dements, 1 chronic alcoholic and 16 epileptics. Excluding the single alcoholic, the modifying symptoms were of two kinds, stuporous and paranoid. The stuporous symptom-complex occurred especially in those kept in collective confinement (17 collective to 6 in solitary confinement), while for the paranoid symptom-complex the opposite was the case (8 cases solitary to 1 of collective confinement). Group V, psychoses developing upon a basis of **degeneration during imprisonment**, was divisible again into the stuporous and paranoid groups containing 16 and 14 cases respectively. Here also the stuporous cases preponderated in collective, the paranoid in solitary confinement, in the proportion of nearly two to one. The stupor usually begins suddenly with a period of violence and aggressiveness, which soon passes into a condition of entire loss of reactivity, the patient lies with open, expressionless eyes and does not speak. There is mainly reduction of sensibility, the pulse is usually rapid (to 120) and there is often Romberg's symptom, increased reflexes and fibrillary contractions of the tongue. There is usually disorientation for time and place due to an amnesia beginning with the moment of excitement and slowly improving. After a period varying from one day to ten months the patient by degrees clears up mentally and the physical symptoms recede. The last residues are often headache and some concentric narrowing of the visual field. The paranoid symptoms also begin as a rule with a period of excitement and destructiveness, after which there develop ideas of persecution, delusions of grandeur and there is entire disorientation as to person. The VI group contains stuporous and paranoid forms with Ganser's symptom-complex as an intermediate link. There were 18 stuporous, 6 Ganser, and 16 paranoid cases. The author concludes that the material considered is hardly sufficiently large to justify the assumption that there is any special prison psychosis, although this seems probable. It would appear, however, that there are two forms of prison psychosis, par excellence, the stuporous developing

## POSITIVE DOCTRINES IN COLLECTIVE CRIMES

especially in those undergoing collective confinement, the paranoid form in those in solitude. As exciting causes, trial, the shock of some bad news, punishment, etc., seem sometimes to play a role. In general the prognosis of these disturbances is not unfavorable, though the time needed for recovery varies very greatly."—Summary from the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases*, July, 1912.  
C. L. ALLEN, Los Angeles.

**Sighele on Adulteration of the Positive Doctrines in Collective Crimes.**—In the February issue of *La Scuola Positiva* there is a very interesting note by Scipio Sighele on "Adulteration of the Positive Doctrines in Collective Crimes." Collective crimes are crimes committed by mobs or by people in groups. The author begins by explaining that a Russian writer in 1909 attacked his position upon the subject of collective crime. The Russian writer believes that crimes committed by individuals of a mob should be more severely punished. It is the contention of Sighele in his book upon the subject, and in this note, that the person who commits crime under the influence of the exciting causes of mob action should be treated more leniently because the actors are involved in a complex of external suggestion rather than driven to crime by their own wills. Mob-criminals should more properly be called improvised delinquents. They do not premeditate crime; neither do they meditate upon it. They are simply drawn into the whirlpool often against their own wills, and almost always with their wills unconcerned, by the strong forces of imitation. If the criminal were perverse, then it would be advisable for society to fear him and to punish him severely. But surely, mob-criminals are not perverse, nor are they to be feared by society. A child, a man of the people, a curious individual in a crowd, in a demonstration in the Plaza has suggested to him by the environment something which causes him to shout, to throw a stone, to strike somebody with a cane or with a knife—these persons are not to be held responsible for their acts in exactly the same way in which they would be under conditions of more isolation and tranquillity, since they are neither morally abandoned nor habitual criminals; they yield to the impulse which urges from without, and when they have come to themselves again they deplore what they have done.

The author says that he would not devote so much time to battering down such weak opposition to his ideas, were it not for the fact that the Appellate court in Trapani very recently decided in conformity with the ideas of the opposition, thus running counter to a long series of decisions which upheld and applied the doctrines of the author. On the first of July, 1911, the Prefect of Trapani ordered an individual to be transported to the hospital for treatment because his wife had died a few days before of a contagious disease. The city doctor, accompanied by the carabinieri, came to the home of this individual to execute the orders of the prefect. There he found a large crowd which opposed with shouts and threats the execution of the order. There was some disturbance, and some stones were thrown. Finally the carabinieri overcame the superstitious multitude and the individual was carried to the hospital. Fifteen people were arrested, almost all about the age of twenty, and some under the age of twenty, including a boy of fourteen years and one of thirteen. These persons were taken to the court and charged with violence, assault and resistance to public officials.